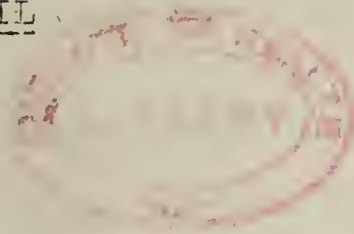


STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of Medical Officer for
1944

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1944.

Population:

The resident population given for the year 1944 was 6,954.

Births:

The number of live births was 104, there being 55 males and 49 females.

There were 7 stillbirths - 4 male and 3 female. The Birth Rate was 15.9 per 1000 population as compared with 15.4 per 1000 in 1943.

Deaths:

There were 76 deaths - 45 male and 31 female. On an estimated population of 6954 this gives an annual Death Rate of 10.9 per 1000, compared with 14.08 per 1000 population in 1943. Of the deaths, the largest incidence was from,

Heart Disease - 13 males, 10 females

Intracranial Vascular Lesions - 4 males, 7 females

Cancer - 8 males, 4 females.

There were 13 inward transferable deaths.

Infantile deaths:

There were 3 deaths in children under 1 year of age. This gives an Infantile death rate of 27.03 per 1000 births as compared with 47.2 per 1000 births in 1943, and which must be one of the lowest infantile death rates in the country.

Deaths from notifiable diseases:

Diphtheria - 1 male

Tuberculosis (pulmonary) 1 male

Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary) 1 female

Pneumonia - 3 males

Notifiable Diseases:

The following 78 cases have been notified during the year:

Erysipelas	3
Lobar pneumonia	11
Scarlet fever	2
Whooping cough	17
Measles	31
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Diphtheria	5
Tuberculosis	
(pulmonary)	4
do (non-pulmonary)	<u>3</u>
	78
	<hr/>

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS J. KIRK.



STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Oakland House,
Victoria Road,
West Hartlepool.

12th May 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stockton Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1944 on the Public Health of that part of your district which comes under my care. This comprises the parishes of Brierton, Claxton, Dalton Piercy, Elwick, Elwick Hall, Hart, Seaton and Greatham.

Because of paper shortage and other emergency conditions I have been asked to make this simply an outline report.

As the Registrar General publishes population figures for the area as a whole, vital statistics based on these figures have already been detailed giving you a picture of your complete district. Consequently, in the matter of statistics, I shall confine myself to making a few notes on the incidence of infectious disease.

Disease	Number Notified	Number sent to hospital
Scarlet Fever	12	10
Pneumonia	3	-
Tuberculosis	3	-
German measles	13	-
Measles	3	-
Erysipelas	4	1
Totals	37	11

The salient points are as follows:-

The 12 cases of scarlet fever compare with only 2 in 1943. There was no real epidemic, however. These cases occurred sporadically in small groups, usually from one household, and in widely separated localities. As many resided at or near milk producing farms, I insisted on hospitalization in 10 instances.

The tuberculosis patients were all of the pulmonary type.

Despite a widespread and prolonged epidemic of measles in the neighbouring County Borough, the cases notified in your district were relatively few - 16 compared with 48 in 1943.

Of the 3 cases of erysipelas, one died. This was the only death in the whole group of notifiable diseases.

Again I am happy to draw your attention to the fact that we have had no case of diphtheria during the year.

Undoubtedly our freedom from this dread disease is due to the protection conferred by immunisation. Unfortunately, the very absence of diphtheria for two years in succession seems to have had the effect of minimising its threat. We have only immunised 11 children in 1944. As there were 26 births in 1943, this probably means that over 50% of children who are now one year old are not protected.

Twenty children were immunised during 1943.

Fever Hospital Arrangements:-

All fever cases requiring strict isolation are admitted to the West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

Ambulance facilities are adequate. We have a choice of a municipal ambulance for fever cases, and the A.R.P. or various private ambulances for other emergencies.

Water Supply:-

Part of your district has the boon of a mains supply, and the less populous areas depend on wells. No cases of shortage or impurity occurred during the year. As you are aware, steps are being taken to provide a mains supply for Elwick and for Dalton Piercy.

Closet accommodation, Public cleansing, Camping sites, and the eradication of bed bugs are dealt with in the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. S. Mather

M.B., Ch.B. (Aberd.), D.P.H. (Cantab.)
Medical Officer of Health.